

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please make the following amendments to the Abstract.

A method for communicating with an Information Management System (IMS) using eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents includes the steps of receiving a document comprising an IMS transaction definition encoded in XML; obtaining a Document Type Definition (DTD) specifying rules for decoding the IMS transaction definition; parsing the XML document using the DTD to decode the IMS transaction definition; and providing the decoded IMS transaction definition to the IMS. A system and apparatus for implementing the method are also provided for communicating with an IMS using XML documents includes a document reception module configured to receive a document comprising an IMS transaction definition encoded in XML; a parser configured to obtain a Document Type Definition (DTD) specifying rules for decoding the IMS transaction definition and further configured to parse the XML document using the DTD to decode the IMS transaction definition; and an IMS interface module configured to provide the decoded IMS transaction definition to the IMS.